

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 03648 281955Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1539
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIAT
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 3648

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, RH
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: VIOLENCE AGAINST UNARMED CIVILIANS

1. WE FULLY AGREE ON THE NEED TO UNDERScore OUR CONCERN ABOUT THE RISING LEVEL OF VIOLENCE COMMITTED AGAINST UNARMED CIVILIANS ON BOTH SIDES IN THE RHODESIAN CONFLICT. WE SUGGEST WE SHOULD BROADEN EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN TO INCLUDE NAMIBIA-RELATED VIOLENCE. THOSE EXPRESSIONS, SHOULD, OF COURSE, BE BALANCED AND DIRECTED TO ALL THE PERPETRATORS OF VIOLENCE AND THOSE WHO MIGHT CONCEIVABLY INFLUENCE THEM.

2. PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY SECRETARY AND AMBASSADOR YOUNG, FOR EXAMPLE, CONDEMNING RECENT ATTACKS ON CIVILIANS -BLACK AND WHITE- IN NAMIBIA AND ANGOLA (CASSINGA) AS WELL AS RHODESIA WOULD BE USEFUL. WE MIGHT INCLUDE A STRONG STATEMENT OF OUR CONCERN ON THIS ISSUE IN
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ANY MESSAGE WE SEND TO THE OAU KHARTOUM CONFERENCE COMING UP IN JULY, APPEALING ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS AND IN THE INTEREST OF THE EFFORTS AT NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENTS FOR THE OAU TO USE ITS INFLUENCE TO HELP PREVENT SENSELESS VIOLENCE. A BALANCED CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION ON THE QUESTION COULD ALSO HAVE PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT.

3. AS NOTED BY DAR (DAR 2769) AND MAPUTO (MAPUTO 0804) DIRECT DEMARCHES TO THE FRONT LINE ARE NOT LIKELY TO BE PRODUCTIVE. AMBASSADOR YOUNG, HOWEVER, MIGHT WISH TO CONSIDER ARRANGING A TALK WITH THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FRONT LINE STATES AT TH UN TO REFLECT OUR CONCERN. AT THE SAME TIME, THE SECRETARY MIGHT CONSIDER A LETTER TO BOTHA EXPRESSING CONCERN, NOTING OUR REPRESENTATIONS TO OTHER PARTIES, AND SEEKING HIS SUPPORT FOR OUR EFFORTS TO END ATTACKS ON UNARMED CIVILIANS. LOW AND GRAHAM HAVE RAISED THIS SUBJECT IN THEIR TALKS IN SALISBURY AND MAY WISH TO DO SO AGAIN.
EDMONDSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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